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NEA/IPA (BELGRADE) AND EEB/ODF (DEMARCELLUS)

E.O. 12958: DECL: 12/10/2017
TAGS: [AS](#) [IS](#) [KPAL](#) [KWBG](#) [PREL](#)
SUBJECT: PARIS DONOR MEETING: AUSTRALIAN RESPONSE

REF: (A) STATE 163955 (B) CANBERRA 1738

Classified By: DEPUTY CHIEF OF MISSION DANIEL A. CLUNE. REASON: 1.4 (D
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¶1. (C) At his December 8 meeting with Prime Minister Rudd, (Ref. B) the Ambassador urged that Australia's attendance at the Paris donors conference be at the ministerial level and stated the need for major assistance pledges from the participants. He told the PM that the Secretary would attend and noted that, although he had heard that Foreign Minister Stephan Smith would be unable to make the trip, it would be a good opportunity for him to meet the Secretary were his plans to change.

¶2. (C) Rudd responded that he was "most gratified" by the outcome at Annapolis and had been on the phone with Israeli Prime Minister Olmert, who sounded very positive. The PM was "quite keen on our people being strongly supportive" at the Paris Donors Conference and wanted to "review" whether FM Stephan Smith could be there. (Note: DFAT officials told us on December 10 that, prior to the Ambassador's meeting with the Prime Minister, they had been planning to send Parliamentary Secretary for International Development Assistance Robert McMullen to head the delegation, and were formulating an assistance package. End note.) Rudd plans to discuss assistance to the Palestinians with World Bank President Zoellick on the margins of the climate change conference in Bali.